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Animal Info

NUMBER TWO

News For Animal Liberation

Box 22-459 Christchurch
Aotearoa/New Zealand

How to get it

Single copies:
$1 by mail
Bulk copies:
$5 per 15 copies, buy a whole bunch and sell in your town
Overseas:
Free if you send us a letter or news of animal rights issues

Protesters sued by Circus

The Moscow Circus, which toured here over the summer of 92/93 is sueing five animal rights and welfare people. Members of the RSPCA, SPCA and Save Animals From Exploitation are being sued because they made comments in the media about the cruelty of animal circuses.

The circus claims they lost thousands of ticket sales because of the bad publicity. The circus agent, Michael Edgley, obviously thinks that his personal bank balance is more important than free speech and the freedom of animals. Going ahead with legal action against activists isn't going to shut people up, it's just going to make people angrier.

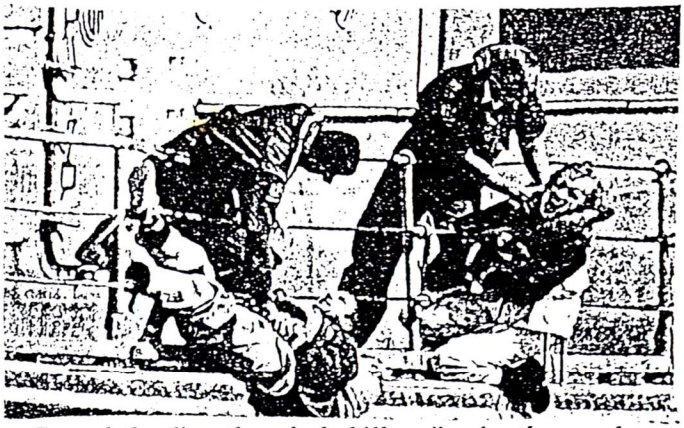
The latest news is that the Moscow Circus's 95 tour appears to have been cancelled.

Meanwhile the NZ based Ratcliffes Circus has been touring the South Island.

(Story inside)

Whaling ship chased out of Wellington Harbour!

Wellington animal rights people were on the Greenpeace boats that tryed to board an illegal whaling ship when it tryed to sneak into Wellington Harbour on Feb 7 to unload a 'scientist' who had chopped his finger off. The Toshi Maru 18 had planned to enter the harbour but stopped outside when police spotted Greenpeace boats in the harbour. Police boats and GP boats raced towards the whale killer which then turned out to sea. A harbour pilot boat got to the Whaler first, transferred the injured sailor and then NZ police loaded fresh supplies onto the ship. As soon as the loading was complete the whaler headed out to sea at about 15 knots pursued by GP boats, who were in turn pursued by police boats. NZ police on board the whaling ship punched and kicked protesters who tryed to board the ship. Several people were thrown overboard by police. A man was dragged onto the ship, had his head beaten repeatedly against the deck until he got concussion, and was then thrown over the other side.



Cops defending the whale killers "we're the good guys- we're here to help"

Continued on page 2

Editorial

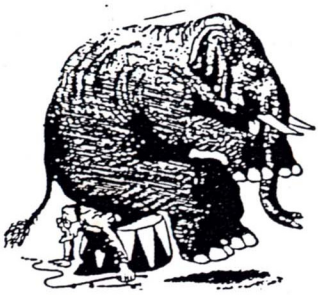
Well, here we are , the second issue of ANIMAL-INFO. Slightly late due to serious problems with our computer. March was looking fairly busy for animal rights people until all three overseas circuses cancelled, April should be fun, the anti-McDonalds demo is happening in Wellington, and several groups in Christchurch have things planned for World Day for Lab animals. Christchurch does seem to be the most active city at the moment, or perhaps were not hearing about the rest? We know we have a lot of readers in other centres, so let us know what you are doing. Next issue will have a full report and photos from World day and the McDonalds demo and whatever else you send in. We will also have information on anti-hunting activities in issue 3 as the duck hunting season starts in May

Ratcliffes Circus tour flops

Tony Ratcliffe's Circus has been having a lot of trouble lately. His South Island tour has been a near disaster. On the opening day of his show in Christchurch, forty protesters greeted a mere eighty customers.

The show was then cancelled when a city council official decided the circus seating was unsafe. The show was delayed by three days while he built safer seating. While the circus waited for the new seats they decided to take Jumbo the elephant around Chch shopping malls to promote the circus. All three promotions were cancelled when animal rights people showed up outside the malls.

When the show finally



opened one of the lions chewed up a circus goers hand and put her in hospital! All in all, not a great week for Mr Ratcliffe!

While the circus was in Oamaru, Ratcliffe announced he was taking legal action against Christchurch SAFE because they had used a photo of "his" elephant in their anti-circus leaflet. He says he wants to hit animal rights groups "in the pocket, where it will hurt". Well we can play that game too.

The latest information we have is the Dunedin circus performances planned for March 24-25 were cancelled after animal activists announced they would protest at the show.

Circuses using animals are dying out. This may be the last tour by Ratcliffes especially after the latest setbacks.

Animal Liberation Front

We are willing to publicise any action for animal rights that we are told about, however if it involves breaking the law, send it to us anonymously and don't put your fingerprints or other evidence on it. This is for your own protection and for our safety as well. Not that we would ever encourage you to break the laws that our government has kindly provided. Hell No! If you don't like whats happening to animals we recommend you write a letter to your MP about it.

Auckland

February: Rubbish tin thrown thru Butcher shop window

Wellington

January: Hataitai Butcher shop locks glued.

February: Cuba St butcher shop gets the glue

Christchurch

December-January: Several butcher shops paintbombed, at least one butcher gets its windows smashed in. We have heard unconfirmed reports of ALF activists taking action against the Ratcliffe circus in Christchurch

Theres probably more direct action against abusers happening but if we don't get told about it we can't print it

"Stuff public opinion. Its not them thats being tortured. we should do whatever the bad people don't like us doing" Keith Mann, ALF activist

Gillette

ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF ANIMAL CRUELTY

Whaling Ship

From Page 1

One woman had her shoulder dislocated by a cop. By this time the ship was 20 miles off the coast so these police actions were very dangerous. Eventually the protesters returned to land as the situation was too dangerous to continue.

Police denied having assaulted anyone, and when asked why they helped load supplies onto the whaler even though the Government had denied permission for the whaler to take on supplies, replied "we're the nice guys, we're here to help"!!

ANIMAL RIGHTS PRISONERS

North American **Rod Coronado** has accepted a plea bargain and faces 41-51 months in prison for his part in 'Operation BiteBack' the 1992 ALF campaign against the U.S. and Canadian Fur industry. In return for a guilty plea the government has dropped its investigations into other activists connections with the ALF campaign

In England **Neil Hansen** has been sentenced to 3 years prison for vandalising a vivisectors house and making a hoax bomb threat. **Annette Tibbles, Max Watson** and **Terry Helsby** are all due for release this month. According to a recent letter from one of them 'BIG parties will be going down!'. ALF Press Officer **Robin Webb** is still in prison awaiting trial for issuing a press release warning of an egg contamination hoax.

Sea Shepherd crew member **Bjorn Ulsford** spent several months in a Norwegian prison late last year for treason. He deserted from the Norwegian Navy and joined the crew of 'Whales Forever' after Norway resumed slaughtering whales.

One of the easiest things you can do for a prisoner is write them a letter of support.

ANIMAL-INFO has an up to date list of animal rights prisoners addresses. Contact us for a free copy.

Egg hoax leaflet

Hoax leaflets were distributed in several Wellington suburbs recently claiming that New World Supermarket were giving away free eggs. The leaflet claimed that New World had decided to stop selling battery eggs because of the cruelty involved, and that they were clearing existing stocks by giving away one carton per customer on Saturday 23 March.

New World were forced to put up large posters in store explaining about the hoax. The hoax was the main story on Radio NZ news on Saturday morning.

An anonymous statement delivered to media said the aim was to draw attention to the plight of NZs battery farmed animals, including 2.5 million battery hens. "These hens are forced to live in atrocious conditions for the profit of large companies" it said.

EGG GIVEAWAY!

This Saturday Only

New World have decided to stop supporting battery egg farming. Our customers tell us that they prefer cruelty-free shopping. After all, chickens like their space, just like you and me!

To clear our current stock, New World are giving away one carton of battery eggs per customer on presentation of this coupon.

This coupon is redeemable only at Wellington City New World, Wakefield St. Valid only Saturday 25/3/95

Limit one carton per customer

NW

Always more for your money

NEW WORLD

Seal hunters attack activists

Several Members of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society were attacked by seal hunters in Quebec recently.

They were visiting the Magdalen Islands to promote a new cruelty free way of harvesting fur from baby seals. When the seals moult, the fur can be brushed off and collected. The seals seem to enjoy being brushed.

But the sealers association has rejected the idea saying "seals are meant to be clubbed, not cuddled" they said.

1500 sealers surrounded the hotel were the Sea Shepherds were staying, screaming they wanted no part of "a faggot idea like seal brushing". They wanted personal revenge on SSCS founder Paul Watson, who led the campaign against sealbashing in 1979 and 1983. They eventually smashed their way into the hotel where they punched and kicked Watson and friends. Watson used a stungun to knock three sealers down, and escaped to the airport with cuts and bruises. Police refused to prosecute the sealers, telling Watson "you were lucky to get off the island alive, don't push it".

Meanwhile Canada has resumed seal hunting, and Norway has announced the start of 'scientific' seal hunting. This means they shoot the seals instead of clubbing them, and then do a study on which method is cheaper.!

British campaign against live exports.

The campaign against live exports continues in the UK. It started in early January and soon spread to five ports and one airport. Protesters stopped any trucks getting through for two nights in a row at Shoreham. Riot police were brought in to force a way through hundreds of people who turned out to stop the exports. Thousands of ordinary people have been outraged by the cruelty involved in the exports and by the brutality of the police. Hundreds of arrests have been made and police have batoned elderly people and children to ensure the trade continues. Protesters have chained themselves together and used their own vehicles to block roads into harbours. At the port of Brightlingsea, activists have blocked roads with their own vehicles to stop the trucks getting through.

On February 1 as protesters tried to stop trucks entering Coventry Airport carrying calfs destined for veal farms in Europe, a truck ran over and killed Jill Phipps. Several members of her family are active animal rights campaigners and witnessed her death. The company exporting the calfs stopped flights from the airport that day but resumed the next day while all the protesters were away at an inquiry into the death. Soon after, 40 activists raided and smashed up the house of the company owner.

The direct action campaign has grown as more and more people realise that the state is firmly on the side of the animal abusers. A bill was introduced to the English parliament aiming to outlaw the exports but was defeated when Govt MPs deliberately delayed parliament so the bill could not be heard.

The campaign to stop the calf exports is spreading as European animal rights groups are now protesting at ports on the other side of the channel and its only a matter of time before the exports are stopped.

useful information

Reading

These are some of the things that we have been reading recently. If you have something relevant that you would like us to reveiw, send it in! Also if you are looking for info on an animal rights topic, we might be able to help you.

This is the ALF.

Anonymously produced by NZ ALF activists, this booklet shows how the ALF causes economic sabotage to animal abusing businesses and how to rescue animals from factory farms. Copies available from us for $2

Savage State

Christchurchs own punk rock and class war magazine. Issue two includes ALF news, english live export protests and also a long article in which English activist Keith Mann explains the events that led to him receiving a fourteen year prison term for ALF activities. $3 from PO Box 13 585, Christchurch

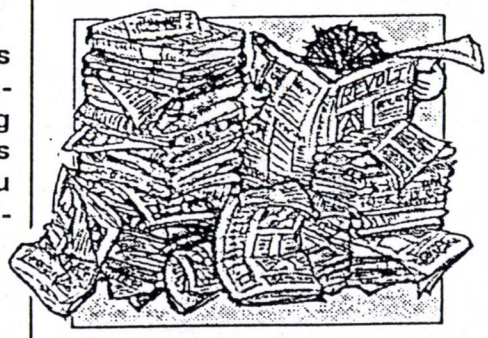
Underground #2

This is the Magazine of the North American Animal Liberation Front Supporters Group. Its packed full of information, including lists of ALF actions from all over the world, updates on all the ALF prisoners. It also includes a lot of news on the struggle for prisoners rights and a cool recipe for Vegan chocolate fudge.

Send U.S. $5 to PO Box 8673, Victoria, BC Canada V8X 3S2

Aotearoa Youth Network Magazine

This is a monthly radical zine from Dunedin. Unlike ANIMAL-INFO , the AYN mag is NEVER late! This is one of the most up to date sources of news and events for radicals and other hooligans. Subs $10 from 111 Moray Place, Dunedin.



Coming up

Let us know about any events, meetings, or protests you are planning. Nothing is too large or too small. Write to PO Box 22459 Christchurch

April 4

The Radical Society, a uni group in Wellington, is having a forum on animal rights. Videos, speakers, yummy food. 6pm, Student Onion Bldg Victoria University.

April 14,15,16,17

Easter Weekend Anarchist Conference. topics include a discussion on the animal rights movement

April 15

Protest against forty years of McDonalds. Lets ruin their birthday! A big protest is being organised in Wellington by the McLibel support Campaign. Midday, Manners Mall. Contact the McLibel people if you would like help organising events in other areas.

April 20

The RSPCA would like all battery hen petition forms returned by this date.

April 24

World Day for Lab Animals. ALLARM in Chch are organising a demo, contact them for details. Antivivisection videos will be shown at an information evening at Trustbank Community House in Cashel St. Details to be advertised.

Addresses

One of the main aims of this newsletter is to promote the little people. The big animal rights and anti-vivisection groups can promote themselves. Send us your groups address and a summary of what sort of things you do.

Vegan Society, Box 26-356, Epsom, Auckland

They produce a magazine Vegan Voice and a range of leaflets about veganism. Members also do stalls and organise protests. They need more active people so get in touch.

McLibel Support Campaign PO Box 14-156, Kilbirnie, Wellington

They coordinate protests against the junkfood empire and spread publicity about the McDonalds vs vegetarians libel case.

Vegetarian Resource Centre Upstairs, 264 Cuba St, Wellington

The resource centre is part of the peace and environment centre so its also a good place to meet activists from different groups. Tshirts, badges, stickers also available.

ALLARM

c/- UCSA, University of Canterbury, Christchurch.

A new AR group, they have produced a very good leaflet about animal abuse and are planning lots of action and activity in Chch. They are also setting up a group at Lincoln University, who can be contacted via the above address.

Animal Rights Movement

C/- O.U.S.A., University of Otago, Dunedin

This active group is working on the battery hen petition and has recently organised anti-circus protests

Conflict Gypsy

read is the new green

this publication and many more can be found on conflictgypsy.com, the free archive of old & rare direct action news